



Appliqué the *Cuddle* Way

Note: A general knowledge of fusible appliqué techniques is assumed.

- ❖ Design pieces should be traced onto paper-backed fusible web following manufacturer's directions. Remember to reverse your design pieces if necessary.
- ❖ Fuse to the *wrong side of Cuddle*. It is advised that you test the heat of your iron on a scrap first. An appliqué pressing sheet is highly recommended for this step.
- ❖ Remember that embossed/textured designs have been heat set: be gentle when applying heat to these fabrics. In certain instances, you may want to consider using spray adhesive or a fabric glue stick to adhere these pieces.
- ❖ An open-toe presser foot is highly recommended.
- ❖ The Schmetz size 90 stretch needle works well when sewing on *Cuddle* fabrics.
- ❖ Stitch choices: I have mainly opted to use a button-hole stitch. It is advisable to increase both the length and the width of your stitch. Other stitch choices may certainly be used, zigzag or satin stitch, blind hem stitch or even a simple straight stitch (just inside the edge of your design pieces) are options. The use of more intricate decorative stitches may not be warranted as the majority of the stitch is lost within the nap of the fabric.
- ❖ Thread choices: Regular sewing thread is the best choice. Decorative or specialty threads are unnecessary as much of your stitch will be lost within the nap. You may want to experiment with colors as the thread doesn't show very much.
- ❖ A layer of lightweight tear away stabilizer should be placed underneath your background fabric when stitching your design in place. Remove it carefully so as to not distort or weaken your stitches. A piece of white copy paper works as well, but takes a minute to remove it.
- ❖ After appliqué work is complete, trim your background piece. Some slight distortion in dimension is to be expected.
- ❖ With temporary spray adhesive, adhere your batting to your backing. Mark the center of both your batting/backing piece as well as your appliqué background piece. Again with temporary spray adhesive, adhere your background to your batting/backing fabric, centering as desired. As you smooth the background into place, some of the distortion noted above will be compensated for.
- ❖ Add additional borders using the "Sew and Flip" method, fusing each one down using spray adhesive.
- ❖ Stitch in the ditch around your design. You may add additional machine quilting if desired.